

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13  
ACDA-10 SSM-05 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /092 W  
-----150256Z 073892 /14

R 141534Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2684  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASHDC  
SECDEF  
USIA  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2413

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY  
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 14, 1977

1. MEDIA LED WITH NEWS ONE-DAY VISIT LEBANESE FONMIN BUTROS TO DAMASCUS APRIL 13 AND HIS MEETING WITH ASAD. BAATH HEAD-LINED, "PRES. ASAD RECEIVES PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRES. SARKIS, AND REVIEWS WITH BUTRUS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON. BUTRUS PRAISES SYRIA'S ROLE IN SUPPORTING PROGRESS OF PEACE IN BROTHER REGION AND SAYS: 'OUR AIM IS TO DISCUSS STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN TO REPEL DANGERS FROM THE SOUTH.'" ARTICLES REPORTED BUTRUS MET ASAD AND KHADDAM AFTERNOON APRIL 13 AFTER HOLDING EARLIER TALKS WITH KHADDAM WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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COL. AL-KHULI ATTENDING, AND MINDEF TCLASS WITH COS SHIHABI AND COL. AL-KHULI PRESENT. PRESS CARRIED STATE-MENT BY BUTRUS MADE UPON HIS RETURN TO BEIRUT THAT HE "REASSURED OF SYRIA'S DESIRE TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON, AND OF IDENTITY THEIR VIEWPOINTS IN ALL MATTERS DISCUSSED." SAME ARTICLES REPORTED THAT LEADING SHIITE PERSONALITIES MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP IMMAN

MUSA SADR AND CARRIED HADR'S STATEMENTS NOTING EASING OF TENSIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT LEBANESE MILITARY UNITS WILL SOON BE SENT THERE.

2. PRES. ASAD HELD BANQUET EVENING APRIL 13 IN HONOR OF JORDANIAN CROWN PRINCE HASAN. ASAD AND HASAN HAD EARLIER HELD TETE A TETE MEETING AFTER HASAD HAD COMPLETED ANOTHER DAY OF TOURING SYRIAN INSTITUTIONS AND TOURIST SITES. SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUED TO GIVE HIS VISIT WIDE COVERAGE AND PROMINENT PHOTOS OF HIS MEETING WITH ASAD PUBLISHED.

3. EDITORIAL ON SOUTH LEBANON STATED THAT LEBANESE AND ARABS DETERMINED TO SEPARATE ISSUE OF SOUTH LEBANON FROM MIDEAST QUESTION. EDITORIAL INDICATED THAT SOME PARTIES ATTEMPTING TO USE LEBANON AS FORM OF PRESSURE ON SYRIA AND ARABS "AT TIME WHEN IMPORTANT CONTACTS TAKING PLACE (TO FIND MIDEAST SETTLEMENT)." EDITORIAL REITERATED SYRIA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR SARKIS AND VOWED TO OFFER HIM ANY ASSISTANCE HE REQUESTS AT ANY TIME. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT RESTORING PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGHOUT LEBANON IS PRINCIPAL PRIORITY BEFORE WHICH ALL "MARGINAL QUESTIONS MUST MAKE WAY."

4. COLUMNIST WRITING IN THAWRA ON US-SOVIET RELATIONS CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE DIFFERENCES EXISTING BETWEEN THEM, DETENTE GOVERNS THEIR RELATIONS. HE IMPLIED THAT BOTH FOLLOWING STRATEGY THAT ALLOWS THEM TO PLAY BIG POWER GAME AT EXPENSE SMALLER STATES WHILE ALWAYS BEING CAREFUL TO KEEP THEIR RIVALRY FROM ESCALATING TO DIRECT CLASH.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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